Further systematic notes on Mexican birds

by Allan R. Phillips

(*continued from page 94*)

Lamprolaima rhami (Lesson), 1838

I perceive little taxonomic value in the many males of this striking humming-bird in collections. (MICH, RTM, US). The few authentically labelled females I have seen, however, permit recognition of

Lamprolaima rhami occidentalis subsp. nov.

Description: closely similar to nominate *rhami*; males possibly averaging slightly paler chestnut below wing. Females paler (more smoky grey, less tinged with steel-blue or -purple) on throat, chest, and crissum, and averaging very slightly larger (wing 66–68, tail usually 42.5–42.8 mm.).

Distribution: known only from the Omiltemi region, Guerrero.

Type: original no. 7500 ♀ ad. (ovum 1 1/4 mm.); *ca.* 2.5 km. SSW. of Omiltemi, Guerrero, on top of mountain above Chautipa (*ca.* 17° 29′ N. 99° 39′ 38″ W.), 21 Oct. 1964; collected by A. R. Phillips, prepared by Juan Nava S.

Measurements of type: length 124, extent 176, wing 67.5, tail 42.5 mm. Weight 7.1 grammes.

Remarks: I see no trenchant character separating *L. r. saturatior* Griscom, 1932: Cerro Cantoral, Dist. Archaga, Honduras, unless it be *paler* in the ♀ than *rhami* of eastern México north of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec! Lesson's specimen probably came from the vicinity of Xalapa, Veracruz, to which I accordingly restrict the type locality of *L. r. rhami.*

Colibri amethystinus (Swainson), 1827

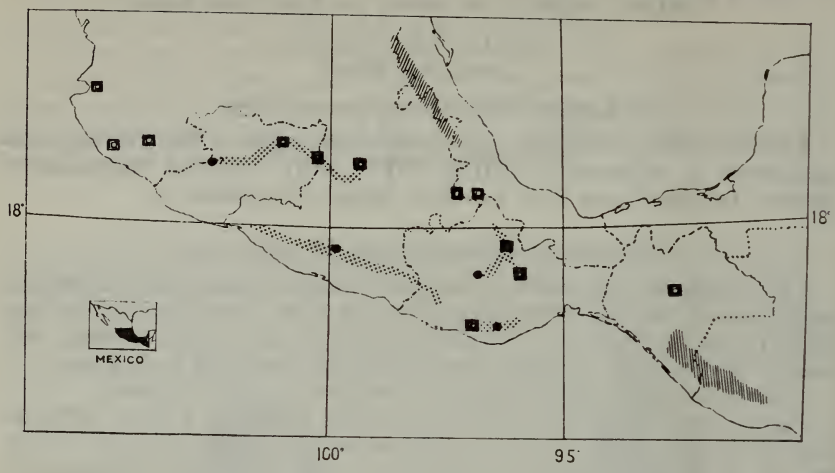
(LSU, MICH, MIN, RTM, US). Extensive series examined refute the claim of Griscom (1937) and Blake (1950) that gorget colour of ♂♂ is too variable individually to use. Actually 95–99% of a given population are much alike, and the remainder hardly match another race. The distribution of the pinkish and bluish purple varieties in concentric circles is too extraordinary and illogical for mere words (see map, fig. 3). *Both* varieties occur in the same mountain range in Oaxaca and possibly Michoacán, though in different parts; should overlap be found, the bluish-throated *C. margaritae* (Salvin and Godman), 1889: Omiltemi, Guerrero, may yet be restored to specific rank, Topotypes seem indistinguishable from birds from Río Molino, Oaxaca; yet in the intervening area lives the pinkish-throated

Colibri amethystinus circumventus subsp. nov.

Description: closely similar to the geographically remote *C. a. amethystinus* (''Temascaltepec, Real del Monte''), but paler greyish below, particularly on the chest. Differs conspicuously from all known adjacent populations in the pinkish (not bluish) purple throat of ♂♂.

Distribution: known only from the type locality.

Types: original nos. 8113 and 8117, ad. ♂♂ (testes not enlarged); km.



Distribution of pink-throated (open squares) and blue-throated (solid dots) males of *Colibri amethystinus*. Shaded areas indicate probable regions of fairly continuous suitable habitat, those in eastern Mexico and Guatemala being occupied exclusively by pink-throated males.

183 (*cf. Micrastur, supra*), 7 Dec. 1964; netted, and prepared by Juan Nava S.

Measurements of types: (respectively) length 124, 122; extent 163—(wings moulting); wing 65—; tail 40.5, 41.6 mm.

Material examined: 22 ♂ 6 ♀.

Remarks: I perceive no structural difference between "*Lampornis*" *auct.* and *Colibri*, though these genera are widely separated in recent lists (Peters, 1945; Friedmann *et al.*, 1950; Eisenmann, 1955; etc.).

The darkish western pink-throated race usually called *brevirostris* (Ridgway), 1908: San Sebastián, Jalisco, ranges all the way east to south-western Veracruz, where I took a ♂ at Puerto del Aire (north of Tehuacán, Puebla), and to northern Oaxaca (LSU). I know of no recent records for either of Swainson's putative type localities; if Bullock was mistaken in his recollection of these, he may have taken the types on the Michoacán —México border, whence I have seen "*brevirostris*". It is known that he collected west to the present Morelia, Michoacán, where he secured *Myioborus miniatus* and *Ergaticus ruber*. Whatever their actual provenence, it seems clear that Swainson's birds were mostly or entirely "*brevirostris*", which is thus a synonym of *amethystinus*, having nothing whatever to do with the bluish-throated *margaritae* despite Blake's statement (1950) that separation of these two "is indefensible".

The pale race of north-eastern México, on the mountains fronting the Gulf of Mexico, should now be called *henricus* (Lesson and De Lattre), 1839: Coatepec, near Xalapa. It differs from all others in the paler gorget and underparts and in the pale *brownish* tinge below.

Heliomaster longirostris masculinus subsp. nov.

Description: ♂♂ closely similar to *H. l. pallidiceps* Gould, 1861 (Xalapa, Veracruz), but crown slightly bluer and gorget averaging more reddish, less magenta or purplish; adult ♀ much like ♂, unlike the sexually dimorphic ♀♀ of other races. First-basic-plumaged ♀ more like ♀ *pallidiceps* (of all ages), but sides and flanks more extensively and purely green; crown deeper green, with the blue of adult at least indicated (on sides of forecrown); and the green more bluish generally, the rectrices darker and bluer even to their bases (CM, RTM).

Distribution: Type locality and (1 unsexed juvenal) Putla, Oaxaca (CU).

Types: original nos. 7297 and 7345 ad. ♀♀; San Gabriel Mixtepec, south-western Oaxaca (*cf. Micrastur, supra*), 8 and 11 Dec. 1963; prepared by Santos Farfán B. and Juan Nava S., respectively (7345 brought in by boys).

Measurements of types: respectively, length 137, 137; extent 154, 156; wing 61.3, 62.3; tail 33.2, 34 mm.

Remarks: This is probably another first record of a chiefly Caribbean species on the Pacific slope west of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec; I am sceptical of the old report from Guerrero. My series (4♂, 2 ad. ♀, 1 imm. ♀) was personally dissected; age of ♀♀ was determined by the appearance of the ovary. They occurred sympatrically with the outnumbered *H. constantii.*

Trogon collaris Vieillot, 1817

Here again the taxonomic value is in the unworn, dull ♀, poorly represented in collections (AMNH, CAS, F, KANU, MICH, WF). Dixon and Davis (1958) traced this Caribbean species west to Guerrero. Here unworn ♀♀ have apparently not been taken; but I have a small series from the Pacific slope of Oaxaca and of Chiapas. These ♀♀ are distinctly paler, duller (less rufescent) brown than a good fresh series from north-eastern Chiapas (Santa Rosa).

T. puella Gould, 1845: "Escuintla, South America", is generally and probably correctly thought to have come from Pacific Guatemala. This is unfortunate, since no fresh ♀♀ seem to exist from Escuintla, Guatemala, and the population there may well prove to be intermediate. It seems conceivable that Gould meant "south México", *i.e.* Pacific Chiapas. In any case, *puella* probably applies to the Pacific race, leaving the Caribbean race to be called

Trogon collaris xalapensis Du Bus, 1845, Esquiss. Orn., 1, pl. 2: Xalapa, Veracruz.

Description: Sides of chest, in autumn ♀♀ from north-eastern Chiapas, near Dresden Brown, often slightly approaching Antique Brown or Raw Umber. In contrast, western Oaxaca ♀♀ are nearer a pale Saccardo's Umber (or even pale Sepia), sometimes approaching Buffy Brown.

Distribution: Caribbean slope generally, south at least to San Lucas, Guatemala (1♀, AMNH), not far from the type locality of *puella.*

Dendrocopos scalaris (Wagler), 1829

(LDY, MIN, RTM, WF). Miller *et al.* ("1957") refer mainland birds from southern Sonora south and east to central Oaxaca (Mitla) to 3 races:

sinaloensis (Ridgway), 1887: near Mazatlán, Sinaloa, Sonora and Sinaloa; *centrophilus* (Oberholser), 1911: Ameca, Jalisco, Nayarit to western Michoacán; and *azelus* (Oberholser), 1911: La Salada, Michoacán, central Michoacán to central Oaxaca and south-western Puebla. Thus we should find wings of 94–101.5 mm. in Sinaloa ♂♂, 100–104.5 in Nayarit, and 92–94 from central Michoacán to Oaxaca. The espoxed culmen should be, respectively, 19–23, 19.5–23, and 18.5 mm.

Actually, however, neither Dr. J. W. Hardy nor I can perceive the slightest difference (other than fading with wear) between birds from Sinaloa, Nayarit, *coastal* Jalisco, Colima, and southern Michoacán. ♂♂ from the lower parts of the latter two areas have the wing less than 98 and bill less than 19.5, which are about average figures in western parts of Nayarit and Jalisco; no taxonomic separation is feasible. Oberholser apparently had a juvenal-plumaged bird which he made the unique type of "*azelus*". Actual measurements of the two "Mitla" males called *azelus* by Miller *et al.* are: wing 102.2, 108; exposed culmen 21.6, 22.2. I do not doubt that they were actually taken in or near Hidalgo. (See Marshall, 1964: 353, on another "Mitla" occurrence listed by Miller *et al.*)

The characters of the populations of central southern México, then, remain to be established. From most of Oaxaca and south-western Puebla I have seen no unworn material. Six specimens from Guerrero are separable as

Dendrocopos scalaris lambi subsp. nov.

Description: very similar to *sinaloensis* (see above), but primary coverts with little white (on inner webs only) or wholly black; white also reduced, and somewhat brown-tinged, in distal greater wing-coverts and on distal parts of primaries. The ♂ has the white spots on the crown also reduced in size and extent (not noticeable far behind the level of the eyes).

Distribution: central Guerrero, west to the Omiltemi area.

Type: in my collection; ♂; Chomicotitlán, at least 15 km. east of Acahuizotla, Guerrero, 3 Nov. 1964; collected by Sóstenes Romero H.

Measurements of type: wing 92.7; exposed culmen 18.0 mm.

Remarks: I dedicate this race to the late Chester C. Lamb, whose unselfish labours supplied most of the critical material used in comparisons. His specimens from Tiquicheo, south-eastern Michoacán (RTM), seem to be good *sinaloensis*, though rather broadly white dorsally (and faded, being January birds).

Pachyramphus major (Cabanis), 1847

(AMNH, F, KANU, LDY, LSU, MCZ, MICH, MIN, RSC, RTM, US, WF).* In this becard, rare nearly everywhere, the variations in ♂♂ are again surpassed by wide individual and racial variations in ♀♀ (tending to fade out with wear). Major variations are: (1) centre of crown broadly cinnamon, not black, from Sinaloa to western Oaxaca (sight record at close range, but unaccountably missed), *uropygialis* Nelson, 1899; (2) tinged with warm cinnamon generally, or at least on malar area, chest, sides, flanks, and crissum; belly buffy, less yellow or clear; dusky of central

*The authorities of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology also kindly lent me their series from the critical areas; but unfortunately all ♀♀ and young proved to be *P.* ("*Platypsaris*") *aglaiae*.

rectrices obsolete; Nuevo León (where larger, with bigger bill, possibly paler, and probably separable) and eastern San Luis Potosí south in eastern México to Isthmus of Tehuantepec, *major*; (3) similar but darker above, Caribbean slope of Central America, *australis* Miller and Griscom, 1925; (4) palest, particularly below; Yucatán Peninsula, *itzensis* Nelson, 1901; and (5).

Pachyramphus major matudai subsp. nov.

Description: ♀ nearly as pale yellow ventrally as *uropygialis*, and with little or no cinnamon wash, but crown wholly black; nuchal collar pale or obsolete; upperparts variable but never (?) strongly rufescent. Averaging slightly smaller than adjacent races.

Distribution: Pacific slope of Chiapas and Guatemala; in typical form from Finca Esperanza, Escuintla, Chiapas (MICH, WF) east to Volcán Tajumulco (F).

Type: original no. 5328, imm. ♀; Finca Guatimoc, 7 km. by road N. of Cacahoatán, south-eastern Chiapas, 20 Sept. 1959. Little fat.

Measurements of type: length 163; extent 246; wing 76.2; tail 56.9 (but central rectrices not full-grown); bill 10 mm. Weight 22.6 grammes.

Material examined: 4♀, as above; less typical ♀♀ from Finca El Cacahuito (Taxisco, Santa Rosa, eastern Guatemala—F), 39 km. SE. of Tonalá, Chiapas (WF), and near Pijijiapan, Chiapas.

Remarks: I take great pleasure in naming this race for Eizi Matuda, true naturalist, to whose broad interests we owe so much of our knowledge of the biota of southern Chiapas. The type has the throat Naphthalene Yellow and the posterior underparts yellower and a bit deeper (other ♀♀ are even paler); the back, medially, is somewhat like Tawny-Olive but much darker and greyer. Birds of more northern parts of Chiapas and Guatemala, and of adjacent areas, seem to be variable intermediates, though *australis* may range west to easternmost Chiapas.

Material examined suggests that the north-easternmost populations may be partially (or entirely?) migratory.

Myiozetetes similis (Spix), 1825

Caribbean birds, from north-eastern México and Yucatán south to at least Costa Rica, are all much alike; they are *texensis* (Giraud), 1841. The description of *primulus* van Rossem, 1930: Tesia, Sonora, was based so completely on faded specimens that he later (1945b) referred the only fresh one he saw to *texensis* as a straggler. Actually the species is sedentary and *all* Sonora birds are *primulus*, which (comparing only fall specimens) is a well-marked pale extreme. As in *Glaucidium*, most of the Pacific coast is occupied by intermediates, which I propose to call

Myiozetetes similis hesperis subsp. nov.

Description: very similar to *texensis* of Veracruz, but back paler. Deeper, brighter yellow below than *primulus*, and greener and slightly darker above.

Distribution: lower parts of Pacific slope of México from southern Sinaloa (north at least to Rosario) and southern Zacatecas south and east to south-western Puebla and at least south-eastern Oaxaca (probably into western Chiapas, whence no specimens seen).

Types: original nos. 4282–4283, ad. ♀ ad. ♂; both from 10 km. S. and 1 km. W. of Tepic, Nayarit, 11 Oct. 1956; very little fat.

Measurements of types: respectively, length 199, 203; extent 310, 336 (—); wing 92.3, 95; tail 74.5, 80.5 mm. Weight 32.2, 33.4 grammes.

Material examined: extensive series of my own, LSU, MIN, RTM, WF, etc., chiefly from Nayarit, Morelos, Guerrero, and Oaxaca.

Since Giraud's birds, of course, did not come from "Texas", I restrict the type locality of *Muscicapa texensis* Giraud, 1841, to Xalapa, Veracruz, the chief centre of collecting activity in México at that time. For an interesting account of Giraud's famous "sixteen new species" see Deignan, 1961:276. It should be noted that *hesperis* is the "*primulus*" of Zimmer, 1937.

Empidonax fulvifrons (Giraud), 1841

My studies (LDY, LSU, MICH, MIN, RTM, US, WF) confirm the well-marked pale north-western race *pygmaeus* Coues, 1865: Fort Whipple [=Prescott], Arizona. Otherwise, colour variations from Nayarit and north-eastern México south to Honduras seem to me to be largely seasonal and partly individual; possibly sex, age, and post-mortem "foxing" are involved as well. While *fusciceps* Nelson, 1904: Comitán, Chiapas, is probably a good race, its characters are not as striking to me as to Hellmayr (1927: 221), nor do I find a marked size difference as claimed by Griscom (1932b). I am not convinced that either *rubicundus* Cabanis and Heine, 1859, or *inexpectatus* Griscom, 1932, are valid races, nor that size varies geographically (rather than individually). In colour, all birds south or east of Sinaloa are to me rather similar, except

Empidonax fulvifrons brodkorbi subsp. nov.

Description: deepest, richest form known. Back nearest Olive-Brown (deeper and rustier than the Light Brownish Olive or duller of other races), in fact darker than the crown. Sides near Tawny-Olive, the chest approaching Sayal Brown or Cinnamon slightly (not Clay Colour or that hue × Pinkish Cinnamon, or paler). In fact the chest is only a little paler and duller, less reddish, than that of *Mitrephanes phaeocercus tenuirostris* Brewster of north-western México.

Type: original no. 7669 ♀; Río Molino (*ca.* lat. 16° 5′ N. long. 96° 29′ W.), southern Oaxaca, 9 Nov. 1964; collected by W. J. Schaldach, Jr.; prepared by Juan Nava S.

Measurements of type: length 119; wing 57.5; tail 49 mm.

Remarks: I saw these birds infrequently in southern Oaxaca and never obtained another specimen; nor have I seen other specimens from Oaxaca, Guerrero, or southern Michoacán. The race is respectfully dedicated to Dr. Pierce Brodkorb, distinguished student of birds, fossil and living, and of Tyrannidae in particular.

Empidonax difficilis Baird, 1858

(CAS, LSU, MICH, MIN, RSC, RTM, US) .This brilliantly-named species combines the usual problem in *Empidonax*—early departure from the breeding grounds, before moulting—with a single annual moult. Thus fresh plumages *never* occur on the northern breeding grounds. Assuming

that southern races would move shorter distances, I selectively collected birds at the highest points in the winter range in Oaxaca. These further proved my thesis (Phillips, 1960: 362) that "*E. flavescens*" is conspecific, providing a connecting link

Empidonax difficilis annectens subsp. nov.

Description: nearest to *E. d. bairdi* or *occidentalis auct.* (*vide infra*), but paler, yellower green on forehead, crown, nape, and back (yet less yellowish than *E. d. salvini* Ridgway, 1886: Calderas, Volcán de Fuego, Guatemala, including "*E. flavescens dwighti* van Rossem", 1928: Los Esesmiles, Chalatenango, El Salvador, or even than *E. d. imperturbatus* Wetmore, 1942: Volcán San Martín [Tuxtla], Sierra de Tuxtla, Veracruz); more uniform below, with yellower lower throat and paler, yellower, less prominent chest-band. Wing-bars average slightly paler.

Distribution: mountains of south-western Oaxaca.

Type: original no. 8078 ad. ♀; km. 183 (*cf. Micrastur*), 4 Dec. 1964; netted, and prepared by Juan Nava S.

Measurements of type: length 149, extent 209, wing 65, tail 58.5 mm.

Material examined: type; 2♀, Río Molino, 3 and 5 May 1962; and 1♂, Río Guajolote (below Río Molino), 19 Dec. 1964. Doubtfully of this race is 1♂, San Gabriel Mixtepec, 9 Dec. 1963.

Remarks: As just shown, all records of this race come from well within the pine belt. The species winters abundantly below, also; but specimens from the lower edge of the pines (Pluma Hidalgo, US) and below (US) are all migrants from the abundant, widespread dull populations of northern México or northward; they are identical in colour with birds wintering in Nayarit and southern Sonora, *i.e.* "*culiacani* Moore" [=*E. d. difficilis*]. Thus neither of Nelson's names *E. bairdi occidentalis* or *E. b. perplexus* applies to any nearby race, and the central Mexican race again becomes anonymous. To remedy this I propose

Empidonax difficilis infelix nom. nov.

Empidonax bairdi auct. nec. P. Sclater (*cf.* van Rossem 1934: 393–394). *Empidonax difficilis occidentalis auct., nec E. bairdi occidentalis* Nelson, 1897: Pluma [Hidalgo], Oaxaca.

Description: This well-known race is relatively dark and brownish. It is nearest to *E. d. immemoratus* Moore (as represented by a series from south-eastern San Luis Potosí, LSU), but is duller, less brown, on the chest, crown, back, edgings of rectrices (basically) and secondaries, and wing-bars; *i.e.* the crown and back are more yellowish than *immemoratus*, the chest more olive or greenish.

Distribution: south-western and central México (west and north-west of Oaxaca).

Type: original catalogue no. 5060 ♂; 5 km. by road south-west of Los Corralitos = 19 km. south of Ahuacapán, Sierra de Autlán, south-western Jalisco, 22 Feb. 1959; collected by W. J. Schaldach, Jr., and prepared by his assistants.

Measurements of type: wing 69.4, tail 61.6 mm.

Material examined: series long ago. Recently 6 from Omiltemi—Chilpancingo region, Guerrero; 2 from mountains of south-western Oaxaca

(Río Jalatengo, ♀ 18 Nov. 1964; above San Gabriel Mixtepec, ♂ 3 Dec. 1963); 2 atypical, Edo. México (May, July); 1 atypical, Morelos (Jan.).

Remarks: I have seen no specimens at all similar to *infelix* from the Isthmus of Tehuantepec or farther south-east. The theory of Griscom and van Rossem (*loc. cit.*) that it winters in Guatemala was due to their failure to realize that (1) the type of *salvini* is dirty and (2) Griscom's "young male" from Panajachel, 15 Aug. 1930, would at that date be in juvenal plumage, which is always much duller than any later plumage and *must not* be compared with these. As shown above, *infelix* actually winters in Morelos and Oaxaca, and probably Guerrero also (I have ♂ and ♀ from Omiltemi, 20 and 21 Oct.).

E. d. bateli Moore (of type, not the rest of the series, which like *culiacani* and "*E. albigularis subtilis*", part, are really migrants of *E. d. difficilis*) approaches *infelix* slightly, but I agree with Miller *et al.* ("1957") that there is no clear separation from *immodulatus* Moore, which in turn, however, is inseparable from *E. d. hellmayri* Brodkorb!

Mitrephanes phaeocercus burleighi subsp. nov.

Description: a dark race, about as dark on underparts, cheeks and crown as *M. p. phaeocercus* (P. Sclater), 1859: Córdova, Veracruz, and *M. p. hidalgensis* Sutton and Burleigh, 1940: near Jacala, Hidalgo; chest deep Ochraceous-Tawny; but hue of back duller, dull greyish olive like *M. p. tenuirostris* Brewster, 1888: "near Oposura" [= Sierra de Oposura], Sonora, though darker. Thus less greenish above than *hidalgensis*, and less brown or rufescent than *phaeocercus* or, *fide* Sutton and Burleigh, than *M. p. quercinus* Dickey and Van Rossem, 1927: Mt. Cacaguatique, Dept. San Miguel, El Salvador.

Distribution: mountains of Guerrero and south-western Oaxaca.

Types: original nos. 7794 and 7839, imm. ♀ imm. ♂; Río Molino and its head near San Miguel Suchixtepec (*cf. Empidonax fulvifrons*), 14 and 16 Nov. 1964; collected by Hermilo García F.; prepared by Santos Farfán B.

Measurements of types: respectively, length 134, 141; extent 216, 225; wing 67.5, 68.5; tail 58, 61.7 mm.

Material examined: Omiltemi, Guerrero, 6; type region, 8. (Specimens from northern Chiapas are close to, if not, *burleighi*.)

Remarks: This race is named for Thomas D. Burleigh in token of recognition of his many valuable contributions to North American ornithology. In addition to CAS, LDY, and MIN, I have seen two specimens from the British Museum (Natural History) which had most kindly been compared with the type.

Cyanocitta stelleri restricta subsp. nov.

Description: very similar to *C. s. coronata* (Swainson), 1827: Mexico = Real del Monte, Hidalgo, *ex* Brodkorb (1944), but less purplish; back duller, greyer blue, and bluer on crest and chest; belly paler blue.

Types: original nos. 7687 and 7708 ♀♀ ads.; Río Molino, as above, 10 and 11 Nov. 1964; collected by Juan Nava S. and Santos Farfán B., respectively, and prepared by Nava.

Measurements of types: length 303, 296; extent 434, 423; wing 138.3, 132.3; tail 130, 123 mm.

Material examined: 7, all from the type locality.

Remarks: (MIN, RTM). Hellmayr (1934) called *ridgwayi* Miller and Griscom, 1925: Volcán de Fuego, Guatemala, "rather an ill-defined race"; while Tashian (1953) questioned the validity of *lazula* van Rossem, 1928: Los Esesmiles, Dept. Chalatenango, El Salvador. While I have not seen specimens from south of interior Chiapas, I too, fail to perceive alleged racial differences between these, birds from Guerrero ("*teotepecensis* Moore", 1954, of Miller *et al.*, "1957"), and true *coronata* of Veracruz and Hidalgo. Thus the new race is surrounded on all sides by *coronata*!

Cyanocorax mirabilis hardyi subsp. nov.

Description: closely similar to *C. m. mirabilis* (Nelson), 1903: Omiltemi, Guerrero, but slightly deeper blue above, at least on tail, upper tail-coverts, rump, and edgings of remiges. Bill heavier (and relatively stubbier).

Types: original nos. 7672 and 7822 ♂♂ ads.; Río Molino, as above, 9 and 15 Nov. 1964. 7672 collected and prepared by Santos Farfán B.; 7822 collected by Hermilo García F., prepared by W. J. Schaldach, Jr.

Measurements of types: length 259, 263; extent 338, 342; wing 109, 107.5; tail 113.3, 116.5; depth of bill at nostril 9.3, 9.2 mm.

Material examined: also 1 ♂ imm. (wing 104.3, tail 110.3, depth of bill 8.8) from the nearby Río Guajolote.

Remarks: It is a pleasure to be able to dedicate this elusive jay to Dr. John William Hardy, not only in recognition of his interesting and important work on jays, but also of the great amount of help he has given me in my work.

In comparison, depth of bill ranges from 7.8 to 8.7 mm. in *C. m. mirabilis*. My reasons for declining to recognise colour "genera" of jays have been stated previously (Phillips, 1950, 1965).

Cyanocorax yncas confusus subsp. nov.

Description: rather similar to *C. y. vividus* (Ridgway), 1900: Pluma [Hidalgo], Oaxaca, but smaller, with iris yellow (except in juveniles?), and slightly darker above and on sides of head, particularly the latter.

Distribution: Pacific slope of Chiapas and (*fide* Hellmayr) Guatemala.

Types: "♀?" and ♀ [imms.], 6 and 4 km.± east of Pijijiapan, Chiapas, 15 Nov. 1964 and 6 Oct. 1965; collected by Abraham Ramírez V. In my collection.

Measurements of types: wing 115.3, 117.8; tail 128, 132 mm.

Material examined: 5, all topotypes or types.

Remarks: Immature ♀♀ *vividus* have wings 120–120.5 in western Oaxaca, 124–126 in Guerrero; tails 135, 137 (Oaxaca), 139.5, 145.7 (Guerrero). Adult male *confusus* measure: wing 116.5, (121+; moulting); tail 139, 131. All birds west of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec are large, brown-eyed (at all ages) and pale-headed. Field experience emphasizes their distinctness from the Caribbean and trans-Isthmus group, part of which had been included in *vividus*.

Cyanocorax yncas persimilis subsp. nov.

Description: almost identical to *C. s. confusus*, *supra*, but still somewhat darker, more purplish blue on the head (particularly the sides and the nasal tufts); averaging slightly darker, less yellowish, green dorsally.

Distribution: Caribbean slope of Isthmus of Tehuantepec area, at least in southern Veracruz.

Types: original nos. 6476 and 6477 imm. ♂(?), ad. ♀; 2 km. north of Ocotal Chico, near Cerro Santa Marta, south-eastern Veracruz, 11 Dec. 1962; taken from flock of about six by Florentino Francisco R., and prepared by him and Juan Nava S. (6477), and by Santos Farfán B. Irides yellow.

Measurements of types: im., wing 114.5, tail 127 (1 rectrix longer); ad. ♀, length 300 [+? Some *rigor mortis*?], extent 373 [+?], wing 123, tail 131.3 mm.

Material examined: also 3 from north-east of Catemaco, Veracruz.

(*to be continued*)

On variation in the austral populations of *Oena capensis* (Linnaeus)

by P. A. Clancey

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Oberholser (1905) was the first worker to believe that the Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis* (Linnaeus), 1766; Cape of Good Hope, Cape Province, populations of mainland Africa could be subdivided, when he proposed *Oena capensis anonyma* Oberholser, 1905: plains east of Mt. Kilimanjaro, northern Tanganyika, for the populations occurring to the north of the Zambesi River. Later workers, notably Sclater (1930) and Friedmann (1930), have not followed Oberholser in recognising two mainland African races, and the possibility of their being significant subspecific variation within the currently acceptable nominate race seems not to have exercised the minds of systematists for all of thirty-five years and more. Recently, I (Clancey (1964)) drew attention to the fact that there appear to be valid grounds for re-appraising Oberholser's original findings.

Critical study of a series of just under two hundred specimens of *Oena capensis* from the South African sub-continent, drawn from the collections of the South African Museum, East London Museum, Transvaal Museum, National Museum of Rhodesia, and the Durban Museum, recently carried out in the Durban Museum, shows that the division of the populations as proposed by Oberholser has no actuality. Birds occurring in East Africa do not differ as a group from all the South African populations, which latter show some quite marked variation within themselves, though its study seems to indicate the presence of more than one race of *Oe. capensis* in mainland Africa.

Examination of series *Oe. capensis* from various parts of southern Africa reveals that the birds can be arranged in two groupings on the basis of colour differences present in both sexes. In the males of one group the back and scapulars are about Drab (Ridgway [1912], pl. xlvi), into which the grey of the crown grades insensibly over the nape, whereas in the birds of the second grouping of populations the grey of the crown is sharply demarcated from the nape, mantle, scapulars, etc., which surfaces are warmer and browner (about Buffy Brown [pl. xl]), the same colour diffused over the inner greater coverts, tertials, rump and upper tail-coverts, imparting a more saturated appearance. In the case of females, there is no